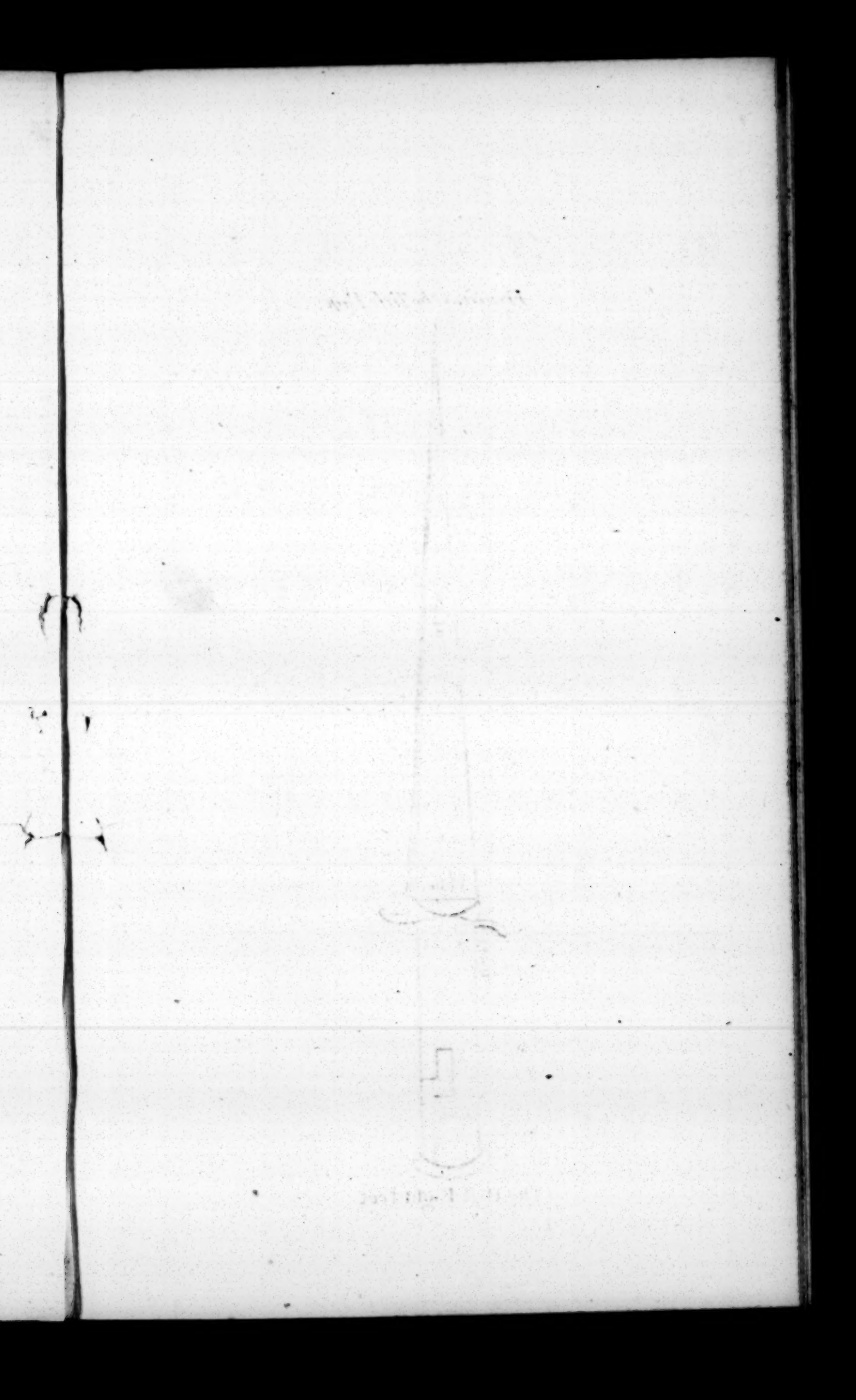
A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND.



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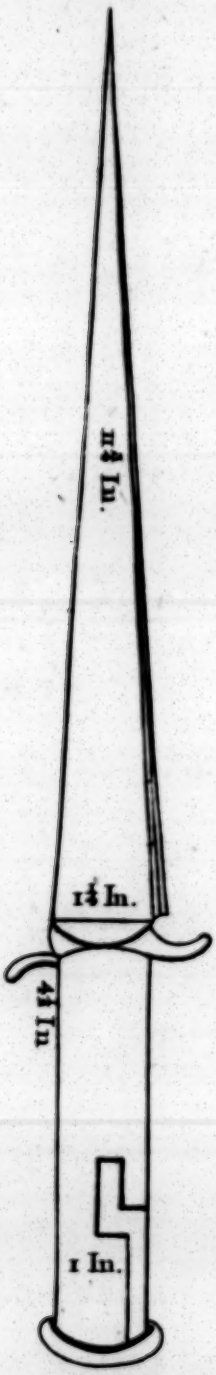

The Haft Eight Feet.

A LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND,

RECOMMENDING

A Simple, Cheap, and Effectual Method

OF

DEFENDING THEMSELVES

AND

THEIR COUNTRY,

AT THIS

ALARMING JUNCTURE.

By JOHN HALE, *Lieut. General, &c.*

Fungor vice Cotis

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A
LETTER
TO THE
PEOPLE OF ENGLAND, &c.

Friends and Countrymen.

I Preſume it will not be neceſſary to apologiſe for ſubmitting to your conſideration, a plan, which, tho' very ſimple in itſelf, involves according to my humble opinion, the deareſt and beſt intereſts of this country; I mean our ſafety, our liberty and our property, I ſhall not take up your time in ſaying much of myſelf, in two words I ſhall explain my political wiſhes, *Peace* and *Liberty*, all I ſay, all I write, and all I ſhall ever do as a politician has a direct tendency to theſe capital objects, and when ever I looſe ſight of them I muſt be ſuppoſed to have loſt my way.

BIBL CANT ACAD

In the firſt place then I lay it down as a fundamental poſition in a free country, the ſine quâ non, that *the people* ſhould be armed, without this precaution, all the laws that ever were written are of no conſequence, Locke and Milton have wrote and Sydney and Hampden have bled in vain, the bill of rights and magna charta are mere waſte paper, empty claims, to be trampled upon or thrown into the fire by the firſt invader or tyrant who is ſtrong enough to make his will the law.

I give it then as my opinion, that we *ſhould arm*; but leaſt I ſhould give any alarm to cautious, prudent, and peaceable people, I ſhall endeavour to remove all the objections to this meaſure which have occured to me, and prove myſelf as prudent, as cautious, and as peaceable as my neighbours, at leaſt as much as is conſiſtent with my notions of ſafety, peace and liberty. It is ſaid by thoſe who are averſe to arming the people, that the firſt uſe they make of

their

their weapons will be to cut each others throats, I am ſure no one would be more ſorry to ſee ſuch a uſe made of them than myſelf, I proteſt I do not foreſee, or at all apprehend any ſuch conſequence; but judging from my own feelings, wiſhing well to myſelf and my neighbour, and bearing enmity to no man, I cannot ſee the leaſt inconvenience that we ſhould both of us be prepared againſt the attempts of thoſe who may be leſs charitably inclined. Admitting however, for the ſake of argument what, I am convinced is not the truth, that the people in general were abandoned and profligate I do not admit that they ought not to be truſted with arms, on the contrary I think the ſooner they are furniſhed with them and the ſooner they exterminate each other the better, for in ſuch a caſe they would not be fit to live; another reaſon given is that the lower orders of people, if armed, might be dangerous to their ſuperiors, I think it will be the fault of their ſuperiors if they are; but pray who are

the people who furniſh the army with recruits and the militia with ſubſtitutes? theſe are not only the lower orders of the people, but thoſe who chuſe rather to carry a muſket than work, and whether it is better to truſt them with a diſcretionary power over our lives and liberties, or thoſe who induſtriouſly ply the loom and hold the plough will ſcarce bare a queſtion. In addreſſing myſelf to the people, I beg it may be underſtood, that I include in that appellation, all orders of men from the prince to the peaſant; and whig and tory, all ſects, all parties are intereſted in a plan, which will ſecure the lives, the liberties, and the property of all without diſtinction; it would be a loſs of time and words to dwell upon the danger of our preſent ſituation, every one knows that we are engaged in a war of the greateſt extent and magnitude with neighbouring nations, whoſe wealth, population, and reſources abundantly exceed thoſe of this country; I ſhall not examine the juſtice or injuſtice of this war, its origin

or

or its progreſs, much leſs ſhall I draw a parallel between the people of America and the people of England, or give an opinion upon a queſtion that has ſometimes been agitated whether we who are ſcalping, burning and plundering the Americans becauſe they will not be taxed without being repreſented, do not ourſelves ſubmit to taxation without repreſentation; theſe ſerious matters will be more properly diſcuſſed by the people at large, who are at this moment in moſt of the counties of England anxiouſly employed in the inveſtigation and aſſertion of their political rights, all I inſiſt upon at preſent is, what may be called the *main chance*, the *ſafety* of the whole: Every body knows there are two parties in this kingdom, that each aſpires to be uppermoſt and each to govern the other, perhaps it is a matter of little conſequence to which I incline, I ſhall ſay however without ſcruple, that I incline to the oppoſition, not that upon the whole I think them infallible, but becauſe they have neither

ther adviſed nor ſupported the meaſure of the American war, a meaſure which perhaps the miniſtry themſelves would never have adopted, if they had not prefered their own places and emoluments to the wellfare of their country; What has lately happened will I hope convince the unprejudiced part of the community, how neceſſary it is to have a free parliament, thro' the medium of which the people may have a proper controul over their rulers whoever they may be, for I can never believe that any miniſter would have dared in the face of a free parliament, to have proſcribed three millions of his fellow ſubjects and entailed upon his country unqueſtioned and unpuniſhed all the horrors of a civil and a foreign war. To prove the neceſſity and expediency of arming the people, it will not be amiſs to caſt an eye upon the other powers of Europe, we ſhall ſee France and Spain and Germany, Ruſſia, Denmark and Sweden groaning under the yoke of a military government, why? becauſe the people

people are unarmed and there is no proper counterpoiſe to the enormous power of their ſtanding armies; Why are the Americans, why are the Iriſh, why are the Swiſs, why are the Dutch, (whom we are now re-paying with ingratitude for that ſalvation they afforded us in 1688) a free people? Let hiſtory and your own experience tell you, becauſe they were armed; The people of this country in former days were all armed, thence comes the name of *Wapontack*, to denote a diſtrict whoſe inhabitants were obliged to take up weapons againſt invaders; In Queen Elizabeth's time 12000 men marched out of the town and pariſh of Halifax to aſſiſt the crown againſt the Earl of Weſtmoreland; I need not recite the perils to which this country has been ſince expoſed, by a diſuſe of this ſalutary right; In many inſtances, particularly during the reign of the Stuarts, there has been no law but the law of the ſtrongeſt, and when at laſt the kingdom ventured to call the Prince of Orange to deliver us from bigotry and ſlavery, our liberty depended

depended upon an eaſterly wind, upon the defection of King James's forces, and the generous efforts of (friendly indeed but,) a foreign and mercinary army. Before I proceed any farther, I think it proper to ſay that I am authoriſed by the law of nature and by the law of the land, in all I aſſert touching the right of the people to carry arms, and my aſſertion may ſuffice till ſome lawyer ſhall take upon him to refute me which I defy all Weſtminſter Hall to do. In ſhort what I propoſe is a laſting barrier againſt foreign force and internal oppreſſion; for as an able writer has lately obſerved the ſecurity and conſequently the happineſs of a free people does not conſiſt in their belief, however firm, that the executive power will not attempt to invade their juſt rights, but in their conſciouſneſs that any ſuch attempt would be wholly ineffectual.

The preſent King has graciouſly declared from the throne, that he neither has nor

can

can have any intereſt diſtinct from that of his people, and that he will make the laws the rule and meaſure of his conduct; but as Miniſters may ſometimes miſrepreſent the true intereſts of the people and thereby miſlead their maſters, and as under their influence laws may be made which would be more honoured in the breach than in the obſervance; it will be always beſt to act with Kings and Miniſters as the Dutch Plenipotentiaries did with Lewis the XIV, not to conſider what they *will do* but what they *can do*, in ſhort, to leave them full power to do good, without any to do miſchief; and this leads me to ſay a word about the King's prerogative (a word I am not very fond of, becauſe of its equivocal and undefined meaning) of making war or peace; It is to be preſumed that a wiſe and good King will never make a war that ſhall not be juſt or neceſſary, but ſuppoſe we ſhould have a King upon the Throne, as mad as Alexander of Macedon, or Charles the XII of Sweden, who ſhould take it into his head to declare

war againſt all the world, without rhyme or reaſon, would the people in ſuch a caſe be obliged to ſhed their blood and exhauſt their treaſure in fighting his battles? This is too important a queſtion for me to decide, but I ſhould think that if they did ſo, they would be as mad as their Monarch; I could mention ſome wars in which this country has been engaged which ſavoured very much of Don Quixote and the Wind-mill; but I think the preſent national debt ſhould be a warning to us not to embark in ſuch for the future, for tho' I am thoroughly perſuaded, that the world cannot conquer us if united amongſt ourſelves in the true intereſt of the country, God forbid that our Rulers ſhould ever adopt the viſionary project of conquering the world, I will not even admit the neceſſity of conquering our rivals in trade or in war, without a rival in war what would become of our warlike ſpirit? without a rival in trade what would become of our induſtry? ſuch was the miſerable policy of Rome, that they never thought

thought themſelves ſafe whilſt Carthage exiſted, "Delenda eſt Carthago" was the favorite language, what was the conſequence? luxury, more formidable than their rival enemies, ſubdued the conquerers themſelves and revenged a vanquiſhed world, Sævior armis Luxuria ineubuit victamque ulciſcitur orbem. I ſhould not have omitted to mention the Norman conqueſt, where one deciſive battle deprived Harold of his crown and gaveus a foreign maſter ; If my plan be eſtabliſhed, I hope an Invader muſt fight as many battles and obtain as many victories as there are counties in the kingdom before he ſaw the laſt of us, and that that remnant would be ſeen at the extremity of the kingdom defending their liberty in the laſt intrenchment.

It may be aſked, whether the chief part of my plan is not intended to reſiſt, or at leaſt to awe the government, I cannot anſwer this queſtion better than by aſking another, does government mean to oppreſs the people? if

it does not it has nothing to fear, if it does it may and ought to be reſiſted; there may ariſe caſes in which reſiſtance is not rebellion but a juſt, virtuous and honourable ſelf defence, and tho' we had nothing to fear at preſent no one knows what we may have in future, we have heard of loans, benovolences and ſhip money in former reigns, and perhaps in ſome future one, ſome leſs barefaced more plauſible but quite as effectual a mode may be ſtruck out of taking the peoples money out of their pockets without their conſent, and whenever that time arrives and thoſe who are bound in duty to protect ſhall ettempt to enſlave the people, all allegiance will ceaſe and we ſhall have no other party to take but to clap one hand upon our pockets and the other upon our ſwords, a ſhort Fable will illuſtrate my meaning. "A boar was whetting his tuſks againſt a tree, what are you at, ſays the fox, preparing your arms when there is no enemy near? when the enemy is at hand, ſays the boar, I ſhall have ſomething elſe to do."

But

But before I go any further, let me intreat your indulgence, my dear Countrymen, for the irregularity of my ſtile and compoſition, Iam not uſed to write for the publick eye, and my thoughts being put upon paper juſt as they riſe, muſt be offered to your conſideration without that order and arrangement which authors by profeſſion may boaſt of, ſuch as they are, they are the genuine effuſions of my heart, if there be any thing uſefull or practicable in them take advantage thereof, if not reject, but don't condemn them becauſe they were meant rather to *ſerve* than to *pleaſe* you.

Whilſt I am talking of war, I think it will not be foreign to my ſubject to ſay a word about a ſet of *trumpeters* who have lately given their ſanction to that ſtate of war in which we are on all ſides involved, I mean the Archbiſhop, Biſhops and Clergy of the convocation of Canterbury, methinks I am reading a Bull of the Pope for a general Cruſade, when I read their late addreſs to his

his Majeſty, they tell the King, and what is worſe, in ſo doing they endeavour to perſuade the people, that for *our ſins God has permitted us to be involved in a juſt and neceſſary war.* As we do not admit the infallibility of the Pope in this country, much leſs that of any Biſhop, or any man whatever, it may bear a queſtion whether the opinion of the convocation, deciſive as it is, will ſatisfy the conſcience of every honeſt man in this country as to the juſtice, the neceſſity, or expediency of that war to the proſecution of which he muſt neceſſarily contribute his ſhare of the expence, and in which he may by the law of the land, be obliged to ſhed his blood; in looking back to the origin of the war, might it not be ſaid that we are the aggreſſors, by exacting taxes from thoſe who never before were taxed and who never were repreſented? Does it become the Miniſters of God's Word to talk this language of that God whoſe aweful Proclamation is *peace on earth and good will to all men?*

But

But I haſten to the mode of arming the people, becauſe I think the meaſure itſelf becomes every moment more neceſſary, whilſt the winter gives us time to breathe, confines the enemy to their poſts, and delays that retaliation which we may reaſonably expect from their united efforts, for, whilſt I am writing, the gazette informs me that Sir John Johnſon, a Lieutenant Colonel in the King's Service has *deſtroyed the ſettlements of Schohary and Stone Aratia*, and LAID WASTE *a large extent of country*, it matters little to the public whether this officer has exerciſed a diſcretionary power againſt our American brethren, or whether he has acted under the expreſs orders of the American miniſter, he has certainly carried the ſeverities of war to a moſt unwarrantable length, wholly irreconcileable to the laws and cuſtoms of civilized nations, provoking, and at the ſame time juſtifying every exceſs, which the Americans or their formidable allies may poſſibly proceed to upon the coaſts of this unfortunate iſland, driven

driven thus to the wall, we *muſt* defend ourſelves againſt thoſe whom our miniſters have brought upon us, we muſt be upon the defenſive, (tho' we have enemies whom perhaps we might with juſtice attack) but whether we attack or defend, *we muſt be armed*, the queſtion is, how? I anſwer with a *knife*, as you are armed already, no alteration is requiſite but in the handle, a common *carving knife*, with a *bayonet handle* is all that I eſteem requiſite, in the hands of an Engliſhman to defend his life, his liberty and his property, provided that he can find a broom ſtick, or any ſtick at all of a proper length to fix it upon, this little weapon is not only as good as the bayonet, it is as much *better*, as the pole upon which you fix it is *longer* than the muſket upon which the ſoldiers fix their bayonets, for it muſt be underſtood that the muſket as a fire arm is better not uſed at all by thoſe who have the courage to uſe the bayonet, and upon this ſubject I muſt beg my countrymen to give me a little credit; they credit

credit the Prieſt, the Phyſician, and the Lawyer, in many things of which for want of reading and experience, they have not very clear ideas, let me hope then, that in one inſtance at leaſt, they will truſt a Soldier, and not ſuppoſe becauſe we ſwear a little now and then, that we will not ſcruple to lye; I advance it then as a truth, of which I am thoroughly perſuaded myſelf, that ſuppoſe two armies drawn up oppoſite each other, equal in number, courage, and diſcipline, each armed with muſkets and bayonets, whereof the muſkets on one ſide ſhould be loaded with powder and ball, and thoſe on the other not loaded at all, I ſay I have not the leaſt doubt, but that the army making uſe of their bayonets only would prove victorious; this opinion of mine is founded upon that of the greateſt Generals who have lived ſince fire arms were invented, particularly the Prince of Condè, Charles the XII. and Marſhal Saxe, and I dare ſay it will be ſupported by the Generals of our own time who have

had any experience in war, or poſſeſs the knowledge of the human heart; if this poſition is granted me, it follows that the muſket may be diſpenſed with, that we may throw away a load of uſeleſs wood and iron and a magazine of powder and ball, and of courſe advance (I wont ſay retreat becauſe that muſt not be thought of) much faſter than an enemy can retire before us, encumbered as they will be with their arms and ammunition, and here let me ſay a word en paſſant as to the immenſe ſums that would be yearly ſaved to this country by the exploſion (diſuſe I mean) of gunpowder, and the total rejection of ball; let any one look at the eſtimates of ordnance ſervice for one year, and they will ſee as much laid out in thoſe articles alone as would kill all Europe, as much as would arm in the moſt effectual manner, every man in this country, and be a means perhaps of keeping us ſafe and free as long as we are a nation, we may as well have done with our cannon too, when we are are about it, they are like

the

the trunk maker, more noiſe than work, and an army without them would walk round an army who had them to drag: But no more of this at preſent, I proceed to my plan and propoſe that every man from the Peer to the Peaſant ſhould be provided with this *knife* and the *pole* to fix it upon, but I muſt be indulged in a very ſhort digreſſion upon the article of knives, as I think it very applicable to my ſubject; you muſt know I have been a traveller, and among other places I have viſited the city of Algiers, in Barbary, at this place I obſerved that ſix or ſeven thouſand turks, with the children they had had by mooriſh women, (the natives of the country) whom they call Cologies, tyranniſed over the whole kingdom, and to ſecure themſeves in that power which they had unjuſtly aſſumed, they would not permit the native Moors even to carry a *knive*; ſometime afterwards I was at Barcelona, in Spain, the capital of Catalonia, It is well known that in Queen Anne's time we encouraged the

Catalans in their revolt in favour of King Charles, and afterwards moſt ungratefully abondoned them to the mercy of King Philip, who ſhewed them little enough as may be ſuppoſed, when I ſay that beſides executions, confiſcations, and other puniſhments, common to people who preſume to chuſe or to change their maſters, he would not allow them the uſe of a *knife* unleſs it were *chained to the table*, and I was aſſured that ſuch a law was ſtill in force in Catalonia, when I was there, tho' the breach of it began to be connived at, I mention theſe circumſtances to ſhew that ſo ſimple a weapon as a knife is conſidered by tyrants as an emblem of liberty, and ſhould be conſidered by freemen as a tolerable ſecurity for keeping them ſo; I propoſe then a general and armed aſſociation, for the purpoſe of repelling a foreign invader or reſiſting a domeſtick tyrant; let the King himſelf, if he approves the plan be the firſt to give it countenance, let him put arms into the hands of his ſubjects under this expreſs ſtipulation,

pulation, that they ſhall uſe them againſt himſelf, if he ſhould ever dare to be oppreſſive or unjuſt, let him always conſider his own intereſt and that of his ſubjects to be the ſame, and acting at all times conſiſtently with his own gracious declaration, let him be ſure that in ſo doing he will be always worthy of a crown and will reign (where alone a wiſe King will deſire to reign) unrivalled in the hearts of his ſubjects; next let the peerage ſign the aſſociation, what a formidable legion would the nobility exhibit, methinks I ſee Groſvenor and all the great ſquares glittering with arms; his Grace, my Lord, *&c.* at the head of their ſervants, after theſe, the Gentry, the Courts of Law, the Merchants, the whole Faculty of Phyſic (among whom the Surgeons will be a moſt valuable acquiſition to our corps) the Tradeſmen, the Mechanicks, with all their ſeveral ſervants ſhall be aſſociated to defend the laws, the liberties of their country, the lives and properties of their fellow ſubjects; let no

man

man attempt to make me believe, that the noble Peer, the independant Gentleman, the enlightened Lawyer, the wealthy Merchant, the induſtrious Tradeſman, the ingenious Mechanick will ever ruſh into the ſtreets with a view to burn and plunder each others houſes; they are bound by their religion, their duty, and their deareſt intereſts to defend and protect each other, and nothing leſs than an arbitrary and impolitick government can ever produce any diſorder from a community collected for ſuch laudable purpoſes; I mean not to exclude the Clergy, if they chuſe to take a part amongſt us, let them at leaſt give us a good word from the pulpit, if they will not take upon occaſion the ſame active part which their brother Prieſts did at the famous ſiege of Barcelona; I will not here take upon me to point out how this armed multitude is to be arranged, the King, the Lord Lieutenants, the Sheriffs, the Juſtices, the Conſtables, are the only civil officers which the law knows to preſide over the

power

power of a country, all I mean at preſent is to arm that country, that they may be ready when the occaſion or the law calls them forth, which God knows may be too ſoon, in the mean time it is no trifling conſideration to eſtabliſh the ſecurity of the capital, and all the great maritime, commercial, and manufacturing towns of the Kingdom; In the cities of London, Weſtminſter and the environs I don't doubt but there may be muſtered an hundred thouſand men, and if the reſt of the kingdom ſhould adopt my plan, there might be upon an emergency ſix or ſeven hundred thouſand men in arms; projectors are apt to be ſanguine, perhaps I like others may be too much ſo when I ſay, that I am not without hopes that this little iſland may contain an army as numerous as that with which Xerxes croſſed the Helleſpout, with this difference, *that there ſhall not be a ſlave amonſt them*; would it not be the extreme of political inſanity, that a country containing ſuch an internal ſtrength ſhould be expoſed naked and unarmed

unarmed to the inſults of an enemy, and every one knows we are ſurrounded with enemies more perhaps than have yet declared themſelves.

Hoſtis adeſt dextrâ æváque ex parte timendus
Vicinoque malo terret utrumque latus

It would make a fine paragraph in a foreign gazette, that Monſ. this or Don that or Mynheer t'other had *deſtroyed the ſettlements* of Hull and Burlington, Scarborough, Whitby and Newcaſtle, Liverpool, Briſtol and Exeter, and *laid waſte* the eaſt, weſt and ſouth coaſts of England, what would all Europe ſay to ſuch a paragraph, they would ſay what I dare ſay they have ſaid already, that we are the ſavages as well as the pirates of Europe, that we deſerve the ſame treatment and as little mercy as we have ſhewn to our innocent and unfortunate countrymen in America, and that Heaven having firſt deprived us of our humanity had for our ſins deprived us of the

the power to defend ourſelves. It may be ſaid that the Army and the Militia will defend us, I don't doubt but that theſe reſpective bodies of men will do their duty as well to the King who commands, as to the public who pays them, but they are not numerous enough to line the coaſts and at the ſame time to form an Army in one particular point, beſides if our Fleet ſhould receive a ſingle check, or our Army looſe a ſingle battle where would be our reſource except in the meaſure I propoſe, or one of a ſimilar nature? According to my plan, every village will form an armed company, under their Juſtice, their 'Squire, or the man whom they ſhall chuſe and the King ſhall approve, in every Hundred or *Wapontack* there will be one, two, three, or more regiments, the ſame in great Towns or Cities (let it always be remembered that the town and pariſh of Halifax in Yorkſhire alone ſent forth 12000 men in Queen Elizabeth's time) what would not our great manufacturing towns be able to do at this time, under the influence and advice of the Gentleman

and the Merchant? For I will never ſeperate the landed and the trading intereſt, when rightly uuderſtood they are one and the ſame. Let us conſider, before it is too late to call upon them, what 40 or 50000 Colliers might do in defence of Newcaſtle, the North, and that precious fewel with which we warm our hands and boil our pots in London, theſe fellows emerging from their pits as black as devils would be looked on as Angels of light and ſalvation, if with my weapon in their hands they ſhould oppoſe and repel the attempts of an invader, whilſt by theſe means we are ſafe in the N. Eaſt, let us look to the S. Weſt, and aſk the Corniſh boys what they will do, I ſee them too riſing out of the ground like the Tutelary Genii of the country and I hear the ſame voice in defence of liberty and their country which formerly cried out

and ſhall Trelawny dye?
[reaſon why.
Then forty thouſand Corniſh boys ſhall know the

In theſe times when parts runs high I will venture to give a word of advice to thoſe

thoſe gentlemen who are diſtinguiſhed by the name of Tories, (a name to which I do not mean to annex any thing more opprobrious than that of the American war) I will therefore admoniſh theſe Gentlemen to beware in time of what they are about, they are uppermoſt at preſent, and they govern under that corrupt ſyſtem which they have ſo often and ſo juſtly reprobated whilſt they were in oppoſition, and they have made ſuch a uſe of their power as the neceſſity of keeping their places cannot juſtify, perhaps their reign is haſtening to an end, let them then make a virtue of neceſſity, let them too however late and with as ill a grace as it may be, let them join the people, let thoſe be our paſſive friends who have ſo long been our active enemies, and make that atonement which is yet in their power to an injured people, ſhould the Whigs, exaſperated as they juſtly are, aſſume the ſame corrupt and uncontrouled power which the Tories muſt ſoon abandon, who could anſwer for *their virtue*, or the *ſafety*

of their *enemies*. Let us unite then, if any great political Chymiſt can unite our diſcordant principles, (as that great man Mr. Pitt once did) let us unite, if not for the love of each other, for the ſalvation of the whole, let our common misfortunes bring us back to a right way of thinking, let us be juſt to all the world, let us be juſt to ourſelves, and let us exemplify the words of our excellent Shakeſpear, that adverſity has brought us back to our ſenſes.

"Sweet are the uſes of adverſity, which like the Toad ugly and venomous bears yet a precious jewel in its head": I beg I may not be thought to ſtart viſionary dangers to which this country is expoſed, let any ſenſible, any reaſonable intelligent and diſpaſſionate man advert to the armed neutrality, the Engliſh have long claimed the dominion of the ſea, by which is underſtood the Mare Liberum for themſelves, and the Mare Clauſum for their neighbours, or in plain Engliſh, the right of travelling

velling upon the highway themſelves without let or moleſtation reſerving a right, (that is a power) to ſtop, moleſt, rob, and plunder other people upon ſaid highway, who ſhould not be ſtrong enough to reſiſt ſuch arbitrary let, hindrance, and moleſtation, all this may be law, but it is law of our own making, the law of the ſtrongeſt, vulgarly called club law, which will be ſubmitted to by thoſe who cannot help themſelves, and no other whatever, if we perſiſt in this arbitrary, nonſenſical, quixotick claim (circumſtanced as we at preſent are and diſunited amongſt ourſelves) the upſhot muſt neceſſarily be this, that Ruſſia, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, North, South, Eaſt and Weſt, the *world* will be united againſt us, we ſhall be beat to a jelly, and obliged to receive the law from thoſe powers to whom in the hour of proſperity and inſolence we unwiſely aſſumed the right to give it. I mean, that if we are not contented with our ſhare of trade without aiming at a monopoly, in the end we ſhall be deprived

prived of all, but that not being a part of my plan, tho' not abſoluely foreign to it, I have only mentioned it en paſſant. After having put weapons into the hands of my countrymen, I ſhall be aſked how they are to make uſe of them, to this my anſwer ſhall be as plain as the weapon itſelf, *as plain as a pike ſtaff*, ſuppoſe a mad dog were running open mouthed towards a man armed with my weapon, need I ſay that he is to turn the point againſt the animal and thruſt it down his throat? Every man, of whatever country he may be, who attempts to deprive another of his life, or rob him of his property, ſhould be conſidered as a mad dog and treated in the ſame manner; it would lead me into too wide a field to treat of the different methods of forming troops before they engage, I preſume whenever a people takes up arms they will chuſe men to conduct them who have ſome experience in the art of war, and whoſe courage and integrity may be depended upon, as to the reſt let them take care to

go

go forth *armed with a good cauſe* as well as a good weapon, and in ſupport of ſuch a cauſe, if they are reſolved to fight, let them *attack* their enemies, and they will have already gained at leaſt half the battle. It will be ſaid who are you? who preſume to offer an opinion to the public and flatter yourſelf they will adopt it? One ſhort word therefore of myſelf and I have done, Peace and Liberty are my political idols, I hate all wars and quarrels foreign and domeſtick, I hate danger as much as another man, and it is to keep it at a diſtance that I would have my countrymen prepare to meet it, Bellum oſtendite, pacem habebitis, As the Roman wiſely ſaid; But I will never be a tame ſpectator whenever this country ſhall be invaded or oppreſſed: In the year 1759 when this country was under greater apprehenſion of an invaſion with leſs reaſon than at preſent, I made an offer to Mr. Pitt, then Secretary of Sate, to put myſelf at the head of the footmen and chairmen of the City of London, this offer, though not accepted of,

Mr.

Mr. Pitt made honourable mention of in the Houſe of Commons, I mention the name of Mr. Pitt, not without ſome vanity, as having been honoured with his public patronage and private friendſhip, and I hope at the ſame time, the name at the bottom of the following letter, will recommend the ſubject of this to the conſideration of the public and be a voucher for the character and upright good intentions of the Author,

I have the honour to be, &c.

Friends and Countrymen,

Your devoted and faithful,

Humble Servant,

JOHN HALE.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT to Lieut. Col. JOHN HALE.

DEAR SIR,

SOME Senſations of the Gout make it not very eaſy for me to write, but feeling the warmth of your Friendſhip as it deſerves, I am in Pain till I tell you in one Word what a Thouſand would not ſuffice to convey, that is, my dear HALE, *that you will ever find in me a Friend who loves you like a Brother, and who can never be more Happy than in being able to prove to you by Effects what he aſſures you of in this ſhort Line, that he is ever moſt unalterably and*

Affectionately Yours,

W. PITT.

Saturday Night,
December 19th, 1761.

BIBL CANT ACAD